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§ 138. **Obituary.**—Doctor Joseph Carson died at his residence in Philadelphia on the 30th of December last, at the age of 68. He had long been in feeble health, on which account, last spring, he resigned the professorship of Materia Medica in the University of Pennsylvania, a position he had long and ably filled. Before he was called to this chair he was Professor of Materia Medica in the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. He was a member of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, and of other scientific institutions. As a young man he was an active botanist, if I mistake not, a pupil of the younger Barton, and with the lamented Durand a member of that circle which, a quarter of a century ago, made Philadelphia conspicuous as a botanical centre. When the works of Pererira and Royle on Materia Medica were reprinted in this country, they passed under his supervision, and his accurate botanical knowledge enabled him as editor to correct the numerous errors of the English authors respecting American plants. When a young man, Doctor Carson made numerous contributions to the history of our native medicinal plants, most of which will be found in the earlier volumes of the American Journal of Pharmacy. The cares of his professorship, and a large practice, prevented him in late years from engaging in botanical work, but they did not weaken his sympathy for botanists and their pursuits. The chief ornament of his study was a life size portrait of F. André Michaux, painted by Rembrandt Peale, which, so far as known, is the only likeness of that botanist extant. The many medical readers of the BULLETIN who have been his pupils, and the many botanists who like the writer have in their early studies been encouraged and aided by him, will hold him in pleasant remembrance as a most kind and genial gentleman.

G. T.

"THE PINES," Jan. 25, 1877.

§ 139. Libraries and Herbaria. II.

THE NEW YORK STATE HERBARIUM is kept in the "Geological Rooms," on State Street, Albany, and is open to the public for study or consultation. It is intended to represent and illustrate the Flora of this State. It now comprises about sixteen hundred species of Phænogams and twenty-five hundred of Cryptogams. Among the latter are the types of more than three hundred species of Fungi. The Herbarium was commenced by the late Dr. Torrey, who placed in it the greater part of the Phænogamous specimens. Many botanists of the State have generously contributed specimens in the formation of this Herbarium, and all, we believe, take a laudable pride in its increase and preservation. Large additions are still being made to the Cryptogamic part.

THE BECK HERBARIUM, formerly the property of the late L. C. Beck, author of Beck's Botany, now belongs to the State, and is kept with the preceding, but distinct from it. It comprises more than three thousand species of Phænogams and above six hundred of Cryptogams. The specimens have been derived from various parts of the world, and among them are the types of several species. Not